

ANNUAL REPORT ON SMALL WIND INNOVATION ZONES

Second Report to the Iowa General Assembly

December 2010

Iowa Utilities Board

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I. Introduction

In 2009, the General Assembly enacted Iowa Code § 476.48, the Small Wind Innovation Zone statute. Iowa Code § 476.48(6) requires the Utilities Board (Board) to prepare an annual report summarizing: a) the number of applications received from political subdivisions seeking to be designated as small wind innovation zones; b) the number of applications granted; and c) the number of small wind energy systems generating electricity within each small wind innovation zone, and the amount of wind energy produced.

Specifically, Iowa Code § 476.48(6) states:

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. The division shall prepare a report summarizing the number of applications received from political subdivisions seeking to be designated a small wind innovation zone, the number of applications granted, the number of small wind energy systems generating electricity within each small wind innovation zone, and the amount of wind energy produced, and shall submit the report to the members of the general assembly by January 1 annually.

To be designated as a “small wind innovation zone,” an area must be:

....a political subdivision of this state, including but not limited to a city, county, township, school district, community college, area education agency, institution under the control of the state board of regents, or any other local commission, association, or tribal council which adopts, or is encompassed within a local government which adopts, the **model ordinance**... (Iowa Code § 476.48(1)(c), emphasis added).

The model ordinance was to be jointly developed by the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties, the Iowa Environmental Council, the Iowa Wind Energy Association, and representatives from the utility industry. **The model ordinance was**

completed in March 2010 and is currently posted on the Web sites of the Iowa League of Cities¹ and the Iowa State Association of Counties.²

In addition, an area seeking to be designated as a small wind innovation zone must be served by an electric utility that has agreed to use the Board's model interconnection agreement. **The Board's model interconnection agreement was developed in a rule making proceeding identified as Docket No. RMU-2009-0008. The Board's order adopting final rules was issued May 26, 2010.**³

The Board also developed rules to implement the Small Wind Innovation Zone statute, in a proceeding identified as Docket No. RMU-2009-0010. The Board's order adopting final rules was issued July 7, 2010.⁴

II. Annual Report

In 2010, the Board received no applications from political subdivisions seeking to be designated as small wind innovation zones. Therefore, the Board designated no small wind innovation zones in 2010.

Board subrule 199 IAC 15.22(4) requires utilities to annually report information for the previous calendar year, regarding the small wind energy systems located in small wind innovation zones in their service territories. Since no small wind innovation zones were designated by the Board in 2009, no utility reports were filed in 2010.⁵

¹<http://www.iowaleague.org/downloads/resources/QandA/2010/SmallWindInnovationZoneModelOrdinance-FinalCommitteeVersionasof3-04-10.doc>

²<http://www.iowacounties.org/News/Misc%20Recent/2010/Small%20Wind%20Innovation%20Zone%20Model%20Ordinance%20-%20Final%20Committee%20Version%20as%20of%203-04-10.doc>

³ <https://efs.iowa.gov/efiling/groups/external/documents/docket/041781.pdf>

⁴ <https://efs.iowa.gov/efiling/groups/external/documents/docket/044688.pdf>

⁵ Similarly, since no small wind innovation zones were designated by the Board in 2010, no utility reports are expected to be filed in 2011.